

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the interview of February 26, 2002.

Claims 1-3 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Elfrig et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

During the interview, the Examiner stated that claim 1 would be allowable if it recited predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having one motion vector while moving to another macro block from left to right, and motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors continuously in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors within each of the macro blocks having four motion vectors. Claim 1 is amended as suggested by the Examiner, and is therefore believed to be allowable.

Claim 3 has been objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and intervening claim. Claim 3 is so amended and is believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A motion vector prediction method capable of decoding backwards, comprising the steps of:

(a) calculating motion vectors of macro blocks; and

(b) predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having one motion vector while moving to another macro block from left to right, and motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors continuously in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors within each of the macro blocks having four motion vectors.

3. (Amended) [The] A motion vector prediction [method of claim 2,] capable of decoding backwards, comprising the steps of:

(a) calculating motion vectors of macro blocks; and

(b) predicting motion vectors of macro blocks each having one motion vector while moving to another macro block from left to right, and motion vectors of macro blocks each having four motion vectors continuously in a predetermined sequence to have correlation in prediction of the four motion vectors,

wherein in the step (b) when one macro block has one motion vector, the motion vector prediction of the current block is performed using the motion vector of the macro block on the left of the current block or the previous coded macro block, and

wherein in the step (b) when one macro block has four motion vectors, the motion vectors are continuously predicted from the motion vectors of the upper-left, lower-left, lower-right and upper-right subblocks in sequence.